

HISTORY OF THE UPPER ROGUE

EARLY MILL DAMS

Before 1870 two partners, Glasgow and Brown, operated the first mill in Prospect. At this time the new Prospect was unknown and the settlement was called various names. Prospect was first named Oakline. A stable for horses and one or two old buildings were all of the town at this time. The road to Central Point and Jacksonville was no more than a cow trail.

The old prospect tried to build a dam across the river but this scheme failed because there were too many big rocks in the river. Some of the early families in Prospect at this time were Abbie Pegg, Charlie Brown and John Baker.

HISTORY OF THE UPPER ROGUE

We, the members of the 1936-37 Civics Class of Prospect High School have had much pleasure in making this slight contribution to our community. We wish we might have made it truly worthy of those pioneers who brought this region to its present state of development.

STANFORD PEARSON
IRENE NYE
MARY OLSON

ARTHUR HAKKERUP
FLORENCE SMITH
MARIE DOLE
ZADA TINKER, TEACHER

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HISTORY OF THE UPPER ROGUE

EARLY MILL OWNERS

Before 1870 two partners, Slosson and Beeson, operated the first sawmill in Prospect. At this time the name Prospect was unknown and the settlement was called various names. Prospect was first named Deskins. A stable for horses and one or two old buildings was all of the town at this time. The road to Central Point and Jacksonville was no more than a cow trail.

The old pioneers tried to send logs down Rogue River but this scheme failed because there were too many big rocks in the river. Some of the characters in Prospect at this time were Antio Pegg, Charlie Dorris and Slum Kaler.

Antio Pegg is known for his stories which were not always the truth. One he told, remembered by most of the old timers in this country is: Pegg bought a scoop shovel in Klamath along with some other things and carried them on his back up to the summit. Being quite tired he just sat down in the scoopshovel and went down the slope. He claimed he went so fast that it only took 15 minutes to get to Prospect. He was going so fast that when he came to the river he couldn't stop so he just sailed on over the river to the other side.

Around 1870 when Mr. Deskins took over the Slosson and Beeson's sawmill, timber was free to everyone. The Indians burned the underbrush to prevent forest fires. The woods then were not so dry as in recent times and forest fire hazards were less. The lumber that was not sold in the vicinity of Prospect was freighted to Central Point Railroad on a long hard journey.

Mr. Deskins was a small energetic sort of fellow. He had a dark complexion, a sharp little beard edged with gray, and bright black eyes. It is told of him that one day he fell into the log pond head-first and was caught on the limb of a log by his overall suspenders. He got so scared that his complexion immediately changed to snow-white.

The present Prospect Hotel was built from the lumber manufactured by this same mill. Every piece of lumber had to be finished by hand labor and pioneer inventions.

BOOTHBY

The A. H. Boothby family first came to Deskins in the year 1874 and settled near the present site of the dam where they built their first home in 1882. It was while they were living there that Ed

Boothby was born and that same year the Rogue River bridge was washed out leaving them isolated.

They next moved to Mill Creek near the present site of the hotel, they moved from there to Ashland and came back in 1889.

It was a hard day's trip from Medford to Prospect and travelers stopped here to stay all night before going on. Mrs. Boothby kept most of the travelers and never did have enough room for them. Many nights she had to put the travelers to bed on the floor because of the lack of sleeping room. She finally decided that if she had to keep them they might as well build a hotel to accomodate all the people. The lumber was all sawed in the Aiken mill and the school teacher, Mr. Pattee, helped build the hotel. The building looks much the same now except the later owners have added several additions and porches to the original building.

Enough families had moved in here by the latter part of the eighties to make the people see the need for a public school. The Aikens' mill furnished the lumber and the neighbors helped build the school, the women bringing a big dinner for the men at noon. The desks and seats were fashioned by hand from sugar pine. Ed Boothby said they were beautiful when finished and Pearsons still have one of the original desks. During one year of school the boys whittled and marred their desks and Mr. Pattee (or Patty as he was called) said that he would whip everyone who had marks on his desk. The boys all made up their minds not to whimper when whipped and the only one who did was George Porter, now mayor of Medford.

The Boothby family left for the South in 1897 and Mrs. George Hollenbeak took over the hotel and store. Boothbys lived for awhile in Fort Klamath and then went to California where they lived until 1914 or 1915. They then returned here and have lived on their present home site since then.

NYE

Chauncy Nye first came to the Upper Rogue country in 1863. That was in the days of the Civil War. There were no roads here then. Chauncy Nye was among the first rediscoverers of Crater Lake, being in the second party. They were all Union Men, and named the peak, which is nine miles south of Crater Lake, Union Peak.

They came over from the John Day mines in search of a suitable site for a road to Jacksonville. The road that was finally built is what is now the original Diamond Lake road. At that time it was thought that about the only use for southern Oregon was for mines. There was only a little agriculture carried on in the valley, the mines being the best drawing card.

There was no law in Jacksonville at that time, the only officer being a person called Alcalde. One day a wagon train came in and a boy asked to be

paid his wages for work on the trip. The train owner refused. The Alcalde said that the wages were just and that the man would have to pay. He replied that he had not the money so the Alcalde ordered him shaken. Several sacks of gold dust fell out so the boy was paid and the Alcalde subtracted forty dollars for his own fee.

All the supplies that were sold in Jacksonville had to be packed from Crescent City or the Willamette Valley. They had to come around Cape Horn to reach those places as that was before the Panama Canal was constructed.

Chauncy Nye came up to Jacksonville with his brother Nathan Nye to work in the mines, having come across the plains to California in 1850. Amarantha Burt, whom he married at the Beason home, came across to Roseburg in 1851. She was a school teacher at Table Rock at the time of her marriage.

After they were married, Mr. and Mrs. Nye lived on a farm at Table Rock. They owned the original Modoc Orchard. Chauncy Nye fought in the Indian wars that were fought around his part of the country. He and his wife lived in a cabin completely surrounded by a palisade in which there were loop holes to shoot through.

Chauncy Nye was a member of the first Oregon Legislature.

When the Nyes were living at the Modoc Orchard, many of the people there fell ill with a fever caused by the stale swamps that surrounded them. The fever was very prevalent at that time in that part of the country. They finally decided to go to Klamath for awhile to escape the dread malady. Mr. Nye taught the first school in Klamath Falls. Nelson Nye was born there, said to be the first all white child born in Klamath County. At that time many of the chimneys in Fort Klamath were made of brick. They had to be brought around Cape Horn by ship and then freighted from Crescent City. The bricks cost about twenty-five cents apiece.

From Klamath Falls the Nyes returned to a place on Foots Creek, which they had bought before going to Klamath Falls. Being again attacked with the fever, they decided to move near Deskins, as Prospect was then called. They hired A. H. Boothby to build a house for them and moved up in the spring of 1875. They lived at what is now the forebay for several years and then moved down to a homestead on part of which they now live. The house stood near where the Joseph Phipps house is now.

At the time when they first came to Prospect it took four or five days to go to Jacksonville, buy a load of supplies and return. They sometimes had a heavy load and then if the road was muddy they waited until several wagons had collected and then each wagon was hauled to the top by the several teams. The roads always went over the tops of hills in those days and grading was almost unknown. About sixteen hundred pounds was all they could haul at one load.

One fall Freel and Jeskins and others decided to take a load of Whiskey over to Fort Klamath. When they got up to about Whiskey Creek, they had to camp for the night. In the morning the ground was covered with snow. It snowed so fast that they were unable to dig the wagons out so they drank

all the whiskey they could and left the rest of it there.

Clarice Nye, then Clarice Paul, who afterward married Nelson Nye, lived on what is now part of the Will Grieve place. She was accompanied by her mother, Lydia Green, her step-father, Samuel T. Green, and Wren Green, his son. They came here because Mrs. Green's health was failing.

There were very few people here at the time that Clarice Paul came but they seem to have had a very jolly time. The young people of Prospect in 1894 had small private dances and parties, spelling matches, and plays.

One day Nelson Nye and Charles Pattee, building the hotel, needed a certain type of board. Mr. Boothby, the sawyer was away, so they started up the mill to saw out the board. They could not shut the mill down when they had finished so they had to let it run empty all day until Mr. Boothby returned.

GORDON

Uriah and Margarette Roff Vaughn Gordon came across the plains in 1865 with five children. Two children, Uriah and Clara, are living here yet. They settled in the valley until 1868 then moved to where the Carlton place now is. Other settlers who were here then were the Abbotts, who lived on the Flounce Rock Ranch, the Greys, who lived on the Ulrich place, also the Nyes and the Beasons. The Brophys lived across the river.

Miss Gordon and her brother would ford the river to see the Brophys where they would sing, dance, play croquet, and do many other things as the young folks do today. Miss Gordon was a good friend of Mrs. Etta Nye Florry, Nelson Nye's sister.

Most of the trading then was done in Jacksonville. It took two or three days to make the round trip. There was no Medford until the year 1887. The reason for building Medford was because Central Point did not want the Southern Pacific Railway Company to put a station in Central Point so they built Medford for the purpose of having a railway station. Miss Gordon was one of the first young persons to ride on a flat car. As she lived in Phoenix at the time of the construction of the railroad she and a few other young people rode from Central Point to Ashland one Sunday afternoon just for the sport of it.

It was much harder to travel in those days than it is today. Everyone traveled with a horse and buggy. Sometimes if the loads were too heavy the wagons had to be pulled over the hills with the aid of another team being put on in front of the former team. Then both teams would be taken back to pull the other load over.

The highway was not built until 1911; however, there were some roads then. One was the Military Road, which went from Union Creek, around Diamond Lake, through Beaver Marsh to John Day. Mr. John Grieve had charge of the convicts that were brought here in 1911 to construct the road and build it on this side of the mountain. The present road is the same one as was constructed then, only it has had the asphalt surface since 1919.

CRATER LAKE

Crater Lake was not very noted in those days because people didn't visit it enough to advertise it. On June 12, 1853 it was first discovered by John Wesley Hillman. It was then named Deep Blue Lake, later called Lost Lake and Peaceful Lake. In 1862 it was discovered again by a group of men led by Chauncy Nye. The third discovery was in 1865 by a group of men from Fort Klamath. They called the body of water, Lake Majesty. It was changed to Crater Lake in 1869 by visitors from Jacksonville.

VAUGHN

Among early settlers to the valley is the Vaughn family. Mr. Jack Vaughn's father was one of the first pioneers to establish a home in this territory. After a long, hard journey from Bend, Oregon he arrived at Laurelhurst. He was a cattle and sheep herder and probably was accustomed to the difficulties at that time. When Mr. Vaughn had established his farm he gave it to his son Jack Vaughn, who now lives with Gus Ditsworth.

PHIPPS & MANNING

John and Mary Phipps came to this country in 1882. They established a home in the Laurelhurst area. Their children, Mrs. Clara Phipps Manning and Joseph Phipps have lived in the valley since the time of their first coming.

Mrs. Manning married Frank Manning in 1884. Joseph Phipps married Elsie Nye, sister to Nelson Nye.

SQUIRE STANFORD AIKEN, PROSPECT PIONEER

Squire Stanford Aiken with wife and small son, George Henry, came from New Hampshire to Jacksonville in 1883 where he established a general merchandise store. In a small handbook of that date we find the following words relating to this business endeavor, "we have been able to supply just what all have been wishing for, a store where goods can be bought in large quantities at lowest living prices. What we claim, no one can deny, is that we were the first in Jacksonville to give exact change and that we are the only firm that ever has offered honest goods at San Francisco prices, and still claim to make a profit".

It might be said regarding this business that Mr. Aiken introduced the nickel as the medium of exchange, the dime hitherto being the lowest denomination used for that purpose. In the cornerstone of the first Courthouse in Jackson County, which was constructed soon after his arrival in Oregon, rests one of these pioneer nickels. Needless to say, the introduction of the nickel did not meet with the approval of his competitors; however, the little coin had come into Southern Oregon to stay.

We found these price quotations in the same little record book:
5 pounds of coffee \$1.00 and 2 bushels of corn \$2.80.

Soon Mr. Aiken and his brother, Dr. Aiken became interested in timber development in the upper Rogue River region. That combined with his desire to own a stock ranch caused Mr. Aiken to sell his business in Jacksonville to J. W. Merritt in the latter part of 1883 and move to what was then known as Deskins, just a little lumber and tie camp on the banks of Mill Creek.

He bought the sawmill operated by Slosson and Beeson from then until 1930 which was known as the Aiken Sawmill.

Dr. and Mr. Aiken either homesteaded or bought the land composing the Red Blanket Ranch. On this tract they raised stock and hay.

Mr. Aiken opened a small store at Deskins which was patronized by homesteaders, prominent among them being the Porter family. One member of whom is the present mayor of the city of Medford. In a short time Mr. Aiken changed the name of Deskins to Prospect and became its first postmaster. In these days we received the mail once a week, if the roads permitted. This store and post office was situated in the old Aiken house, which is still standing.

Closely associated with him in the store business and saw mill was Mr. Boothby who had purchased the Millsap claim where the present hotel now stands.

In those days a working man's wages were from \$1.25 to \$1.50 or \$2.00 per day.

Soon the need for an established school was felt. The first classes were held in one of the early homes located near the place where the dam now is.

In the year 1890 the neighbors combined their efforts and built the first school house on a site donated by Mr. and Mrs. Boothby. This building, which was constructed through donated labor, is the church annex now used as a Sunday school unit. The first terms were at three month's duration and in the Spring when the roads were dry enough for the children living at some distance to walk to school. Teacher's wages were small, but living expenses were saved by "boarding around". The first teacher was Miss Dora Flemming. The second was Mr. Pattee, a dapper Frenchman, who also wielded the ferrule and pointer for three long months.

Now to return to the fortunes of the Aiken family, who by this time were spending their time alternately between the Red Blanket Ranch and their store and post office at Prospect. Their daughter, the first little girl born in Prospect, was named Frances Imogene. Three years later the second son, Harry B. was born during one of the family sojourns at Red Blanket. Yet another son, Stanford, was born four years later. Both Harry and Stanford served their country in the World War. None of these children except Frances is now living. She was married to Everett J. Pearson in 1918 and lived in Oakland, California until her husband's death in 1924. At that time she returned to the old home at Prospect with two small sons, Stanford E. and Paul J. Pearson.

Mr. Aiken's wife and the good mother of this family left home and friends in Manchester, New Hampshire to follow her husband into these mountains. She made many happier by her cheerful, joyful, disposition and left many sorrowful by her death in 1902.

Much credit is due Mr. Aiken for the manner in which he cared for his family and still had time for civic duties.

"Good schools and good roads" was his slogan at a time when little attention was given to either.

Mr. Aiken died in 1920 after a well-spent life. Thus in his own words, "I have never made a failure of any undertaking in my life, but have never made a fortune".

In conclusion, we reproduce a little poem written by George Henry Aiken at Sierra Madre, California and read at his funeral in August 1936. These verses seem reminiscent of his early manhood in these hills:

I, too, might have scaled the star-lit heights,
To stand, at last, among that tuneful hand;
 But in my youth
 I chose
To walk the River's way of forests, of logs,
And wild waters rushing madly to the sea.

Once again I hear
The grinding, crashing, thunder of jamming logs.
Once again I see the dogwood and the hemlock
Bowed beneath the weight of falling spray.

Once again I hear
That awful cry of him
Who slipped and fell upon the icy bark.

Once again I scent
The sweet perfume
 of white syringa,
As it dips and sways its lovely blossoms
Across the churning waters.

George Henry Aiken
Sierra Madre

GEORGE ALVIN HOLLENBEAK

It was in the later part of the eighteen-sixties that George Hollenbeak came to the Rogue River Valley. His work at that time was breaking horses in this country and in Shasta County, California. He traveled between these two sections of the country for a number of years.

He and his parents, B. Quincy Hollenbeak and Malinda Hollenbeak, crossed the plains in 1864. They settled in Pitt River, California in 1866. There were a number of Indians where they lived and it was in California that George Hollenbeak learned the language and the customs of the Paiute Indians.

In 1864, George Hollenbeak spent his winter in the Rogue Valley. About four years later he married Martha Stanley. All of their children went to the Prospect School. There were six children altogether: May Belle Hollenbeak, now Mrs. Norton who is living in Portland, Pearl Hollenbeak, the oldest daughter, who is now Mrs. Mooney, Ed Hollenbeak, the oldest, a farmer in the Red Blanket District, and Ace Hollenbeak, who is mining in Eastern Oregon; these are the four living.

George Hollenbeak carried the mail between Sams Valley and Prospect at various intervals for a total of sixteen years.

It was about the same time that the Ray Brothers put in the first power plant, when the Hollenbeak's took charge of the Prospect Hotel. The Hollenbeak's were the first people to finish papering and painting the building.

George Hollenbeak is now living in the Red Blanket District near his son, Ed Hollenbeak.

OTHER PIONEERS

There are others who have helped toward building this community. Mr. Aiken often employed Mr. Freel, Bill Mooney and Charlie Dorris to do his ranch work and to help around the store. These men also worked in the saw-mill. Bill Mooney bought the Red Blanket Ranch from Mr. Aiken about the year 1910. Charlie Dorris (Dorry) had a homestead near what is now Copco.

Henry Pegg had a homestead near Mr. Nye and it was he who was the great story teller of this section of the country--the Paul Bunyan as it were.

Irwin McCall came in 1887, and took a timber claim near Prospect. He was a timber cruiser for the Rogue River Timber Company for many years. Mr. McCall still lives in Prospect.

We owe a great deal to these pioneer people for their courageous spirit.

GRIEVE

The first member of the Grieve family to come here was John Grieve, or Grandpa Grieve, as he was commonly called. He came here in 1900 as road supervisor. His men for a while in 1911 were convicts from the State prison. He was the first man to do this. They were working with him when he supervised the building of the State highway.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Grieve came here in 1910. They spent their first winter at Cascade Gorge. They came to Prospect in 1912 to take over the hotel and store. Mrs. George Hollenbeak was running it then. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mooney were with her at the time. They were then the owners of Red Blanket Ranch.

Grieve built the store in 1913 tearing down the old store which was at the corner of the lot. Jim Grieve ran the store and hotel until his death in 1932, then his wife, Mary Grieve, took it over and has been running it since.

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region to its present state of development.

Stanford Pearson
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